

**PUBLIC ACTS, 1999**

**CHAPTER NO. 467**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 305**

**By Representatives Fitzhugh, Bowers**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 704**

**By Senator Herron**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to abandonment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-113(d), is amended by adding the following sentence to the end of subdivision (1):

If a parent whose parental rights are proposed for termination is the legal parent of the child, as defined in §36-1-102(26), and if such parent is alleged to be deceased, then diligent efforts must be made by the petitioner to verify the death of such parent.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

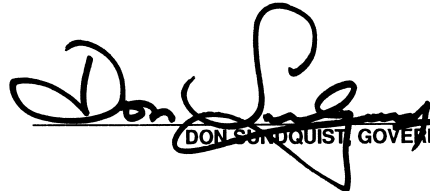
SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: May 28, 1999**

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 17th day of June 1999**

  
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR